CONFERENCE connection
Alabama • Georgia • Mississippi
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TRANSFORMING CHURCHES, TRANSFORMING LIVES
Southeast Conference UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST
SOUTHEAST UCC Conference

August 19, 2017

From the Conference Minister

Many of you, like me, watched the news from Charlottesville, VA unfold over the last week. I was filled with sadness, horror, and disgust. I was also filled with fear. Charlottesville is part of the Shenandoah Association of the Central Atlantic Conference. This is my former association. I know Charlottesville. There is one UCC congregation there: Sojourners UCC. I have worshipped with them many times. I have walked in that park. I know the organizers of Congregate Charlottesville. Rev. Seth Wispelway was ordained into the Christian ministry weeks after I left to come here. Brittany Caine-Conley is still a MID with the Shenandoah Association. I remember meeting with both of them as they applied to be a MID.

Over the last week, I have struggled to find words that make sense. There were three things that touched me, and I've already shared them on our website and social media in the hopes that they will touch you and inform your thoughts and your words this coming night and coming day. Read my thoughts and the three things here.

In addition, the UCC has extensive coverage of the Charlottesville events:

- UCC Shows Up in Charlottesville
- UCC Pastoral Letter Condemns Racist Violence
- At Solidarity Vigils, UCC Clergy Lead the Way
- Sharing Love of Neighbor in Charlottesville
- Rev. Traci Blackmon Calling for Action Against White Supremacy

Blessings,
Marie

Reminder about Free White Privilege Course from the UCC

White Privilege: Let's Talk—A Resource for Transformational Dialogue is an adult curriculum from the United Church of Christ that's designed to invite church members to engage in safe, meaningful, substantive, and bold conversations on race. This is a downloadable

resource in PDF format that's free of charge and can be used by any church regardless of size or budget.

Divided into four focused parts, each one introduces a different aspect of the dynamic of white privilege:

1. The Spiritual Autobiography Told Through the Lens of Race
2. Whiteness as the Norm: Five Loci of Insights on the Binary of Light/Dark and Black/White
3. The Cash Value of Whiteness or Whiteness as a Tax-Exempt Status
4. On Becoming an Ally

In all four parts, each author contributes a different view of the subject matter presented based on their unique personal experiences. The materials include questions for discussion and reflection.

Learn more on the UCC website: http://privilege.uccpages.org/

News from Around the Conference

Next *Transforming Churches-Transforming Lives* Grants Open September 18

Starting Monday September 18 thru Tuesday October 31, 2017, the *Transforming Churches-Transforming Lives* application process will be open for accepting applications. If you have a project in your church that meets the criteria of furthering the mission or ministry in your community, send in an application. Awards are reviewed and awarded for up to $5,000.00 in November.

If you have any questions, please email Debbie Spearman, Generosity Coordinator at dspearman@secucc.org.

Needed: Two Conference Coordinators for "3 Great Loves" Initiative

During General Synod in Baltimore, the UCC announced the "3 Great Loves" initiative. This initiative will lift up the UCC's historic and current love of neighbor, love of creation and love of children.

We are seeking two volunteers to serve as conference coordinators for the UCC's "3 Great Loves" initiative. All the details are available on our website.

Please contact Marie Bacchiocchi at mbacchiocchi@secucc.org if you're interested in serving.

Prayer List
We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2017. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers. Click here to download the entire 2017 prayer list.

Week of August 20
- First United Church of Christ; Sweetwater, Tennessee
- Kim Buchanan
- Tommy Hill
- Stanley Roat
- G. Lind Taylor

Week of August 27
- Pilgrim UCC; Birmingham, Alabama
- Walter Brueggemann
- Patricia Robbennolt
- Ralph Thompson

News from our Local Churches

Executive Director of Back Bay Mission to Speak at Pleasant Hill Community Church

Back Bay Mission has a proud history of service on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The Mission has a simple goal: to strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice, and transform lives. More than more than 800 volunteers a year on work camp/mission trips at the Mission.

Executive Director Dr. Alice Marie Graham will preach in the PH Community Church at the 10:45 am Worship Service on Sunday, August 27 giving many more details about Back Bay Mission. Learn more about the Back Bay Mission on our website.

Kirkwood UCC Consecrates New $1.2M Campus and Sanctuary in Atlanta

On Sunday, August 13 Kirkwood United Church of Christ consecrated their new church home at 100 Rogers Street in Atlanta. Rev. Dr. Patrick Duggan, the Executive Director of the UCC Church Building and Loan Fund, was the guest preacher. Clergy from around the conference participated in the worship service as the congregation welcomed neighborhood folks, regular congregants, and former members who returned for the “homecoming” weekend celebration.

View photos on our website.

News from our Denomination

Apply for a Neighbors in Need Grant

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. **Apply for a grant now**. The deadline for submissions is September 30th.

Training and Retreat Opportunities

UCC Southern Region Women's Retreat Information

Registration is now open for the women's retreat, held this year at Mo Ranch in Hunt, Texas. Learn more about this enriching opportunity on our website. Please note that Early Bird registration (discounted) ends Sep 5!

Also, Women needing transportation to and from Mo Ranch from the San Antonio airport should contact quinerly@sbcglobal.com very soon. A van can be available for 6 to 8 people; reservations are needed.

Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders

The Lombard Center is pleased to offer the course "Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders" from Monday through Friday, October 2-6, 2017 at First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland, Florida.

This five-day training is intended to equip church leaders with the skills necessary to deal effectively with interpersonal, congregational, and other forms of group conflict. It includes lectures, discussion, and guided practice in role plays. Active and practical in focus, the sessions emphasize hands-on skills training and real life role-plays, based on the types of conflicts faced by participants.

This training is useful for pastors, lay leaders, Conference and Association staff, and others who serve with churches and church ministries.

Learn more on the Lombard Center website: LMPeaceCenter.org.

Job Opportunities

Part time Youth Minister

Open Community United Church of Christ (OCUCC) is in search of a part time Youth Minister for its children and youths. OCUCC is looking for someone who loves children and youths, has experience in children's ministry, is committed for daily devotion and prayer, and has evangelical and reformed faith background. Please submit a resume, confession of faith, and two recommendations from church leaders including the pastor or the senior pastor of the church that you are currently attending. You may mail them to Open Community United Church of Christ. 2676 Clairmont Road, NE. Atlanta, GA 30329 or send via email to the address below. You may direct your questions to 678-670-6930 or 678-760-1975 or oc.youth.minister@gmail.com.

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